



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

13 SEPTEMBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Elk Grove – Marijuana Grows Seized From Four Homes in Latest Seizure with East Coast Links

(U) Elk Grove police served warrants on four houses in a local neighborhood last week, discovering 2,800 plants and more than 50 pounds of marijuana. Five men were arrested in connection, with three being from the East Coast. Two days before the Elk Grove arrests, Roseville police made a similar bust, with investigators determining that the confiscated 1,100 plants would have been used for marijuana destined for New York. In July, federal officers raided nine homes in the region searching for marijuana, arresting suspects who all had out-of-state driver's licenses.

SOURCE: 12 September 2017, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) San Clemente – Man Detained After Making Bomb Threat in Stolen Van at Nuclear Power Plant

(U) A man drove a stolen van into a restricted parking lot at the idled San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station yesterday and claimed to have explosives in his vehicle, authorities said. Sheriff's explosives experts were called to the facility by San Onofre security personnel after a man drove a white delivery van past an entrance gate and into the restricted lot. The man told guards that the vehicle contained electronic equipment and possible explosives. A search by the sheriff's unit turned up only standard shipping parcels in the van, which had been reported stolen earlier in the day in Oceanside. The 27-year-old driver was arrested and booked.

SOURCE: 13 September 2017, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Indiana – Man Suspected of Planning Terrorism Sentenced to Prison

(U) Greenwood – An Indianapolis-area man who authorities say was suspected of planning an act of domestic terrorism has been sentenced to more than three years in prison. Christopher Byrne—who authorities say told them he was a “sovereign citizen”—was sentenced on 11 September to 37 months in prison and two years of supervised release. Byrne was arrested last year in Greenwood after a search of his car revealed a rifle, ammunition, and liquids that when mixed form a toxic and combustible gas. Investigators say they later found he had addresses of several law enforcement officers and a judge handling an earlier case against him.

SOURCE: 13 September 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – ISIS Still Has 2,500 European Fighters, Say EU Anti-Terror Chief

(U) Berlin – The European Union's counter-terrorism coordinator says the ISIS group still has about 2,500 fighters from Europe among its dwindling ranks. Gilles de Kerchove told German news media in an interview that the extremist group used to have about 5,000 European fighters in Iraq and Syria. De Kerchove says about 1,500 fighters have since returned home and 1,000 have been killed. According to official US estimates, ISIS has up to 13,000 fighters overall left in Syria and Iraq.

SOURCE: 12 September 2017, [Washington Post](#)

(U) Philippines – ISIS Recruiting Fighters for Philippines

(U) Marawi – A video released by ISIS asks would-be fighters to go to the Philippines instead of Syria and Iraq, the latest sign that the terror group is shifting its recruiting tactics as it loses ground to coalition forces in the Middle East. The seven-minute, English-language video, released by the official ISIS media operation late last month, includes messages from several fighters in the Southern Philippines, as well as scenes from battles with government troops near the city of Marawi. US intelligence officials and private sector analysts say that Asia has become a new focus for ISIS.

SOURCE: 12 September 2017, [NBC News](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Terror Ransom Payments Puts Americans at Risk, Say Report

(U) London – American hostages are at greater risk of being murdered or tortured because some European nations pay multimillion-dollar ransoms to terrorist groups, a think tank warned yesterday. London-based Royal United Services Institute said paying ransoms not only fuels more kidnappings and terrorist acts—it also endangers the lives and welfare of captives from countries who don't pay, such as the US, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The US government estimates terrorist groups collected \$120 million in ransoms between 2005 and 2012—with ISIS collecting \$20 million in 2014 alone.

SOURCE: 12 September 2017, [NBC News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Border Patrol Agents Stop Human Smuggling Attempts

(U) Huachuca City – Border Patrol agents recently arrested eight people connected to two separate human smuggling attempts, according to the US Customs and Border Protection. The first incident happened at a checkpoint point on Highway 86 near Three Points on 9 September in which two Guatemalan men were found hidden in a 2006 Nissan Maxima trunk. The second incident happened at a checkpoint on Highway 90 near Huachuca City on 10 September with agents finding three Mexican nationals in the trunk of a Ford Taurus, according to CBP.

SOURCE: 12 September 2017, [News 4 Tucson](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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